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Photo by Tom Ekvall

The former Pioneer Resort buildings will be removed by the end of March to clear the site for potential development and respond to security concerns.

Pioneer buildings being removed for safety reasons

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The former Pioneer Inn and Resort is being torn down to make room for new development that has not yet materialized.

Community Development Director Allen Davis said the city issued a raze demolition permit to a local contractor for removal of the remaining principal buildings on Pioneer Island that is expected to be completed by March 31.

The demolition, which will cost \$146,000, will remove all remaining foundations and two remaining buildings on the island, which include the hotel lobby, restaurant and bar, as well as the former sales office situated near the channel.

Davis said the demolition represents one more step toward redevelopment of the site. The property is owned by Jeff Kierleber with Decade Properties based in Brookfield, which bought the Pioneer site in 2002, removed the hotel structures in 2004 and closed down remaining operations except for the marina by 2005.

Art Dumke, who has an option to purchase the property, said the razing is being done for security purposes, adding that there has been a rash of illegal activities including fires at the site.

"Someone might get hurt," he said.

Dumke said the city has been great to work with but no plans have been reached yet for development.

Davis also said the city also plans to tear down the former Repp's Bar, which it bought for \$225,000 last year, to make room for intersection improvements at Oshkosh Avenue and Sawyer Street.

"We intend to rebuild the intersection, which will give up better access to Rainbow Memorial Park" and eliminate traffic congestion in the area," Davis said.

He said asbestos is being removed from the century-old tavern that Al Repp Sr. took over in 1943, and when completed will be subject to a 10-day Department of Natural Resources review before demolition can take place at the 1202 Oshkosh Ave. location near the Fox River.

Winnebago water level drawdown reviewed

Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance strategy aired by Army Corps

By Dan Roherty
OSHKOSH HERALD

A strategy to reduce water levels on the Lake Winnebago system to help reverse the loss of aquatic plants that deter erosion and work against toxic algae blooms was given a public review last Thursday at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regional office.

As part of its lake management planning initiative, the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance took input from a mix of groups representing lake interests to develop a modified water drawdown strategy for the Lake Winnebago system to try to encourage plant growth.

Besides public officials from Oshkosh, the DNR's local offices and other state and local agencies, private lake interests spoke and asked questions at Thursday night's meeting in Appleton to find out details and expectations of the proposed strategy. Some of the 70 in attendance expressed concerns that the plan was too aggressive for some areas in the system that are already dealing with thick plant growth that impedes boat navigation and other recreational uses.

Army Corps officials said near the close of the meeting that they were inclined to forward the strategy for implementation while continuing to take public input into February. They emphasized that the ability to manage lake volumes through dam controls can be negated by weather conditions that can quickly take over targeted levels.

"The strategy is a guide. We will attempt

SEE **Water system** ON PAGE 6

Titans' wrestling coach teaches with a purpose

By Brad Hartmann
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

There is a purpose and a reason why Efrain Ayala is coach of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh wrestling program in that he believes is his faith.

"God has put me here to help these young men and help prepare them for life," said Ayala. "I treat this job as I am making a million dollars every day. You got to come in here and grind. You have to work hard and know there is a purpose."

Ayala's dream of coaching wrestling came true Aug. 12, 2013, when he was named the Titans 12th coach since 1967, replacing Chris Stratton who resigned for

personal reasons.

"I always knew wrestling would be in his future somewhere," said Kurt Frohling, his high school wrestling coach at Grand Island Senior High in Nebraska. "I thought he would be a high school coach. He just loved the sport of wrestling. I am just so glad that he was able to move up the ranks to become a college coach, which is quite unique."

Ayala may have the luxury of being named without any prior head coaching



Ayala



PHOTO BY UW-OSHKOSH

UW-Oshkosh wrestling head coach Efrain Ayala encourages one of his wrestlers during a recent match. His team is currently 6-5 overall and 2-2 in conference.

experience but one thing that stands out is his ability to pick people's brains such as Frohling and college coaches Mark Manning and Bryan Snyder at the University

of Nebraska.

"I think it's his passion and how he can

SEE **Wrestling coach** ON PAGE 11

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Community news briefs

Bank gets city panel OK for Koeller Street branch

The Oshkosh Plan Commission recommended approval Jan. 15 of a zoning change that will allow Associated Bank to build a branch at 2020 S. Koeller St. on land previously occupied by a former Mobil gas station.

The commission approved a zoning change from suburban mixed use to suburban mixed use with planned development along with general development and specific implementation plans for the bank.

The actions were necessary because of challenges in redeveloping the existing site. The commission approved several modifications dealing with front-yard setback requirements and a bypass lane to accommodate traffic without blocking streets.

The widening of the bypass lane will improve traffic flow around the site should a vehicle block the current bypass lane.

Associated Bank has branch facilities on Sawyer Street and on West Murdock Avenue along with another facility in the Festival Foods store. Morgan Partners is requesting the actions, stating that the gas station would likely be razed in April with a late 2019 opening for the bank.

Congress Avenue bridge closing for repairs in '20

The state Department of Transportation will begin repair work on the Congress Avenue bridge next January, the city manager's office announced. Work will

include painting and repairs to the bridge deck, replacing bridge approach slabs and other minor repairs.

Bridge closure will be required until the work is completed. With the planned opening of the Oshkosh Corp. global headquarters in that area, there will be traffic issues after the opening along with inconveniences extending into the university area, the State 21/Oshkosh Avenue corridor, and businesses and residences on either side of the bridge.

City staff will be offering public education ahead of the work and through project completion, and are working with the DOT on other street work that may need to be done while the bridge is closed.

Rock USA announces summer lineup, tickets

Rob Zombie and Marilyn Manson, Rock USA headliners from last year's three-day event at Ford Festival Park, will return to this year's lineup July 18-20 along with other leading groups Five Finger Death Punch, Disturbed, Breaking Benjamin and Mastodon.

A 72-hour early ticket sale begins at 4 p.m. today for three-day passes at different levels. Other ticket and camping details are at rockusaoshkosh.com.

Winnebago sturgeon management meetings set

The public can learn more about the status of the lake sturgeon population in the Winnebago System at three upcoming meetings.

State Department of Natural Resources staff will share results from a recent survey of 2,000 sturgeon spearing license holders and discuss how these results were used to help draft a rule proposal to define the parameters of a sturgeon spear. Sturgeon enthusiasts can pose questions regarding management on the Winnebago System.

Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at Horace Mann High School in North Fond du Lac, Jan. 29 at Engler Center in Chilton and Jan. 31 at Menasha High School.

For more information, contact DNR Lake Winnebago sturgeon biologist Ryan Koenigs or search dnr.wi.gov for keyword "sturgeon management."

Police update services for non-emergencies

Callers will notice a change to the Oshkosh Police Department's non-emergency phone service starting Feb. 1 that is anticipated to reduce the wait time when calling the department.

When residents call the front desk of the police department at 920-236-5700, instead of speaking directly to an operator they will be prompted to make a selection from options listed.

The options include requesting a copy of a police incident report, accident report or other open records requests; matters relating to parking; scheduling an appointment for the release of property held in evidence; filing a report or speaking to a patrol officer; and speaking with different units of the Criminal Investigation Division.

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2019 ELECTION

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 10 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

TO OBTAIN AN ABSENTEE BALLOT YOU MUST MAKE A REQUEST IN WRITING

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the February 19, 2019 Election. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot by mail, email or in person.

MAKING APPLICATION TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL

The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2019

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

VOTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

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Fri, (Feb 15, 2019) 8 am – 5 pm

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on February 19, 2019. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

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Leaders ID common priorities

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Leaders from key Oshkosh public institutions described key initiatives, community issues and priorities at a public forum recently sponsored by the nonpartisan organization Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh with about 50 people attending.

The forum included presentations from the city, the Oshkosh Area School District, Fox Valley Technical College, Winnebago County and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and moderated by the Rev. Tom Willadsen.

Willadsen said we “need to increase trust in community governance” as part of efforts to create a strong community. Those presenting said there is much work being done to bring all parties together through strategic planning to create a positive image for Oshkosh.

One priority emphasized was the common desire for civility and inclusiveness in decisions made.

Vickie Cartwright, school superintendent, said more effort needs to be made in attracting people to come to Oshkosh for work, saying “we need to make them feel



Photo by Tom Ekvall

Community leaders, including (from left) City Manager Mark Rohloff at podium, moderator the Rev. Tom Willadsen, Melissa Kohn from FVTC, Winnebago Executive Mark Harris, Schools Superintendent Vickie Cartwright and Alex Hummel from UW-Oshkosh, participated in a public forum sponsored by Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh to discuss local priorities.

welcomed” through job retention efforts. She said her office has been working with the city on this issue.

Also presenting at the forum were City Manager Mark Rohloff; County Executive Mark Harris; Alex Hummel, special assistant to the UW-Oshkosh chancellor for Strategic Partnerships; and Melissa Kohn, campus administrator for FVTC.

Each described highlights for their agencies as well as answering questions from the audience dealing with such topics as poverty and job retention.

Cartwright said 42 percent of the district’s students receive a reduced-price lunch, adding that many children from low-income families are not prepared for kindergarten and lack the skills relevant to social interaction, such as how to play with others.

Harris said there are programs underway to respond to needs of low-income residents, including the Hub project, a program involving ADVOCAP and the Oshkosh Area United Way in conjunction with partners such as the Salvation Army.

Algoma development advances to county

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Town of Algoma Board unanimously recommended approval Jan. 16 of a preliminary plat for a proposed residential development known as Lakevista Estates with various conditions to be met.

The 103-unit development now goes before Winnebago County officials, with a public hearing scheduled Jan. 29 before the county’s Planning and Zoning Committee and later before the Board of Supervisors for action.

Developer Eric Hoffmann said he is in agreement with required conditions and modifications that he said will be made by the time the proposal comes back for a final plat process.

Area residents have objected to the inclusion of duplexes in the project through R-3 residential zoning, noting that such actions could lead to higher density. The

duplexes would be situated along a proposed Caden Court, which will have its own homeowners association to handle maintenance and other tasks for that portion of the development.

The revised preliminary plat had been requested by the developers to reduce the density along Caden Court to meet county zoning regulations, dropping the housing number by three units.

Hoffmann said there will also be another homeowners association covering the entire development. He said the developers would handle maintenance costs until the project is about 80 percent built out, at which time the associations would be in charge. He added that covenants will be added to each title to ensure compliance with local requirements.

Hoffmann added that if in the future maintenance activities are not handled by the associations the town has the ability to charge back the costs for needed improve-

ments to property owners.

Russ Schwandt spoke in opposition to the preliminary plat because of the potential for multifamily development in the area, adding that Algoma is a progressive, rural community that should be kept that way. Schwandt said the proposal represents the opinions of town officials and not what those in the community want.

Also objecting to the proposal was Peter Donner, who said he was concerned about potential water runoff and wanted more specific information dealing with stormwater management.

Hoffmann said that information would be provided as part of the final plat process, adding that engineers had already looked into how to handle water flow.

He said his firm will enter into an agreement with the town that will spell out specific conditions such as stormwater management, which also has been a concern of residents.

Education group to review district progress

The public school advocacy and watchdog group Oshkosh4Education invites the community to hear about progress in area district schools as it presents its annual report at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 29 at The Waters.

“This event will include a call to action from the community to help in gathering important information for Strategic Plan III, scheduled to begin the week of Feb. 11,” said Trisha Castle, Education Commission chair.

Oshkosh4Education promotes con-

necting the strategic plans of the school district and the city to focus on common goals that allow the group to meet the evolving goals of the business community.

All members of the community are in-

vited and copies of the report will be available for review or can be viewed after the event at www.Oshkosh4Education.org. Registration is requested and can be made at www.OshkoshAreaCF.org.

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Chamber working for strong year in county

Happy New Year, Winnebago County! I wish for you good health, happiness and success in 2019. The new year brings with it a new administration in the Wisconsin statehouse along with a new majority in our nation's House of Representatives. While change is often good, the existing political unrest may yield more gridlock in our nation and state capitals.

Closer to home, we look forward to our own local elections. It was encouraging to see the interest in the Oshkosh mayoral race, with three candidates vying for the position. Contested races are positive for a community, and voters should have a choice when headed to the polls in February and April.

There are also three spots up for re-election on the city council, with five candidates to choose from. It will be an



Dennis Lewandowski
Oshkosh
Chamber chairman

interesting and important election for the continued growth of the Oshkosh economy and services to its citizens.

We also have two spots open for the Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education. There are only two candidates who will be on the ballot this April. While I am sure these two candidates will serve as honorable members of the board, it is disappointing that voters will not have a choice this spring.

Currently there are few members with

a business background serving on the board. Business experience offers a different perspective regarding financial issues, specifically health care insurance options for the many school district employees and budget adjustments to further ensure students' success.

As citizens of Oshkosh and voters it is important to have the facts about all of our candidates to exercise our civic duty. At the chamber level we are committed to two-way communication with our city officials, school board and other local organizations to continue encouraging business relationships and the economic growth we have all enjoyed over these past few years.

Another big milestone for the chamber is keeping our prestigious accreditation as a U.S. chamber of commerce with a five-

star rating, a reflection of the organization's strong board leadership to provide the highest-quality programming to our membership, along with economic- and talent-development expertise and strong advocacy on behalf of the local business community.

The Oshkosh Chamber is only one of 120 in the United States awarded this five-star rating out of 7,000 chambers. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the work of our professional staff in moving the chamber forward. Their work is truly a credit to this community.

Finally, the Oshkosh Chamber wishes all of you a safe, healthy and prosperous 2019. I personally would like to thank all of our members, the board of directors and of course the residents of Oshkosh for your time, feedback and support.

UWO bias case alleges improper incidents

State agency won't pursue discrimination complaint

By Miles Maguire
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh has won the initial round in a legal battle with its former chief of student recruitment but brought to light allegations of improper behavior by administrators.

On Dec. 10 the state Department of Workforce Development determined there was no probable cause to pursue a discrimination complaint filed by Brandon B.A. Miller. Miller, the former associate vice chancellor for enrollment management at UW-Oshkosh, was fired in January 2018.

Miller argued that he had been denied a promotion because of his race, color and sex and that he was fired because of these factors, his homosexuality and his reporting of discrimination.

But Gregory Straub, chief of the Civil Rights Section for the workforce agency, disagreed. He said Miller had never formally applied for the promotion that he wanted, which means UWO "could not have discriminated against him when it hired" someone else.

"The available facts demonstrate (UW-Oshkosh) probably terminated Miller's employment for rudeness and unsatisfactory performance," Straub said. "There are no facts to suggest Miller's race, color, sex or sexual orientation motivated

his termination."

Miller's attorney, Peter J. Culp, disputes this finding and has filed a request for a hearing.

The university declined to comment for this story. Miller referred questions to his attorney, who did not respond to a request for comment.

Culp apparently seeks to present evidence of discriminatory comments allegedly made by Chancellor Andrew Leavitt and by Cheryl Green, the school's vice chancellor of student affairs who was recently named interim chancellor at UW-Whitewater.

Legal papers filed in the case paint an uncomfortable picture of the school's senior levels of administration, with allegations of insubordination, dereliction of duty, racially charged comments and harsh interpersonal interactions. Some examples included in the documents:

- In a "bizarre incident" from January 2017, Miller flew to Phoenix on university business but did not attend scheduled meetings or answer his phone. When UWO found out, the school "notified his emergency contact and requested police entry into his hotel room where his possessions were seen, but he was not," said Jennifer Sloan Lattis, the deputy general counsel for the UW System. "The situation was embarrassing to UWO," she said. But Miller "never gave any explanation for why he failed to attend the meeting or where he had been," Lattis wrote in the university's formal response to the dis-

crimination allegations.

- In December 2017 Miller and Green, a black woman who was hired into a job that Miller had wanted, were both working at an event where senior administrators serve a "night breakfast" to students who are up late studying for finals. "Following the event, (Miller) told another staff member that Dr. Green was a racist, that she had spoken only to black students and had given more food to black students," Lattis said. Green disputed all of these contentions and reported she was "hurt and upset to be slandered in this fashion," Lattis said.

- Green, who had direct supervision over Miller, alleged that he regularly skipped staff meetings and missed deadlines for completing reports. Miller denied these accusations and pointed to a glowing written evaluation of his work performance that was signed by the

school's chancellor. Miller accused Green of raising last-minute concerns to try to interfere with his travel plans for an overseas vacation trip.

In his original filing, which was made in March, Miller alleged that Leavitt had discouraged him from applying for the top student affairs position on racial grounds. "I need to hire a black woman for that role," Miller quoted Leavitt as saying.

In the university's response, Lattis said, "Chancellor Leavitt may have remarked that he was pleased with the diversity of the finalist pool, but he does not recall saying that he wanted to hire a black woman."

Miller began a new job last month as vice president for enrollment management at Cabrini University, a Catholic institution in Radnor, Pa.

Miles Maguire is editor of the Oshkosh Examiner news blog.

Recycling event benefits Boys & Girls Club

Sadoff e-Recycling & Data Destruction and the Wisconsin Herd is holding a recycling event benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh today.

Electronics will be accepted for "Go Green Night." Sadoff will be donating a \$1 to the Club for every item collected.

Citizens' Climate Lobby to screen HBO documentary

The Oshkosh chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby will screen and discuss the HBO documentary "Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution" at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 28

in meeting room B of the Oshkosh Public Library.

More information about the film is at HappeningTheMovie.com.



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Catholic diocese reveals clergy in sexual abuses

Oshkosh Herald

A list of 46 clergy with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse of minors who worked in the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, including 10 who served in Oshkosh parishes between 1937 and 1992, was released last week by Bishop David Ricken.

At a press conference Thursday in Green Bay that included other diocesan officials, Ricken apologized to all victims of sexual assault at the hands of Catholic clergy since 1906 and asked other victims to step forward.

Another 16 priests and two deacons accused of sexual abuse of a minor who were either exonerated or the allegations against them unsubstantiated by the diocese were not included in the list.

A Milwaukee-based founding member of the national group Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) criticized the list's omission of at least 16 accused Norbertine priests that served in Wisconsin. Peter Isely said it contradicts the church's promise to be transparent about the accusations.

SNAP is asking Wisconsin Attorney

General Josh Kaul to investigate the cases and extent of the coverups, noting priest abuse files were ordered destroyed by former Green Bay Bishop David Zubik in 2007, who now leads Pittsburgh's diocese.

The diocese also announced two trauma recovery workshops it will offer in Green Bay in the coming weeks for clergy, pastoral leaders and mental health professionals to train them in assisting victims of sexual abuse.

Other dioceses across the nation have been releasing names of acknowledged and suspected sex offenders since a Pennsylvania grand jury last year identified credible allegations against more than 300 priests involving more than 1,000 children.

The released listing shows the dates clergy served at different parishes in the 16-county diocese, along with the approximate dates that the abuses occurred. Those with substantiated allegations of sexual abuse who worked in Oshkosh and their times served, which don't necessarily match the estimated dates of the abuses, include:

Dennis Bouche, St. Vincent De Paul

(1949-1950).

Michael Carroll, Lourdes High School (1970-1976).

John Feeney, St. Peter (1956-1958).

Clarence Leitermann, St. Mary (1937-1940).

Francis Reinke, St. Vincent de Paul (1958-1960).

Eugene Schmidt, St. Vincent De Paul (1975-1990).

Ronald Schneider, Sacred Heart (1988-1992).

Earl Schuh, St. Mary (1952-1957).

Robert Thompson, Lourdes High School (1967-1969); Newman Center, UW-Oshkosh (1969-1978).

Alphonse Wagner, St. Vincent de Paul (1947-1954).

A 1992 civil lawsuit filed in Winnebago County by a woman against Schmidt, who retired in 1991, alleged that from 1968 through 1972 when she was 13 to 17 years old, he abused her at St. Mary's Church in Winneconne. The lawsuit was filed too late under state law and dismissed.

Schneider was transferred to Sacred Heart Church after being at churches in Appleton and Neenah with a note from

the diocese that he was not to be associated with children and should be kept away from unsupervised groups.

Eight of the 10 clergy are deceased. The complete list and other details can be found on the diocese's website.

"My top priorities, as outlined in my Seven Action Steps to Accountability, remain," said Ricken in a statement. "To improve our pastoral care, concern and efforts to accompany victims of abuse in their journey of healing; and, to provide as many ways as possible for those who have been victimized to come forward without fear and to share their story of sexual abuse. We need to know as fully as possible the harm that was done, so we can offer care to victims and ensure no perpetrators remain in ministry."

The diocese said its policies include permanently removing from ministry any clergy who have a substantiated allegation of abuse of a minor against them. The diocese requires all clergy, employees, and volunteers in all parishes, schools and diocesan offices to complete background checks and training on keeping children safe.

Restaurant Week features 25 locations with special menus

Oshkosh's second annual Restaurant Week promotion running from Thursday through next Wednesday will include 25 restaurants offering special menu items.

"We are celebrating with more than two dozen local restaurants that have come together to offer excellent food and service at special rates for one week only," said Amy Albright, executive director of the Oshkosh Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Most participating restaurants will offer three-course, price-fixed menu options for lunch or dinner. The lunch option is \$13 and the dinner is \$26. Some are also offering an \$11 breakfast option.

A dollar from every meal will be donated to the bureau's Eat for Art initiative.

"This initiative was created because we believe that the arts are the heartbeat of a vibrant city," Albright said. "Our mission is to continue to improve our community through local art projects that promote tourism and quality of life in Oshkosh."

The 25 participating restaurants include Bar 430, Becket's, Benvenutos, Brooklyn Grill, Caramel Crisp, Carrot and Kale, Chester V's, Dockside Tavern, Dublin's Irish Pub, Fox River Brewing Co., Gardina's, Granary, Ground Round at River's Edge, The Howard, Lunch Box, Mahoney's, Manila, Maple Pub, Primo, The Roxy, Ruby Owl, South of the Border, TJ's Harbor, West End Pizza and ZaRonis.

The bureau was awarded a \$15,000

Joint Effort Marketing grant by the state Department of Tourism to help expand marketing efforts to promote the week.

All patrons at participating restaurants can request a Restaurant Week menu. No tickets are necessary but reservations are recommended. Menus and maps are at OshkoshEatWeek.com and patrons who dine at one or more of the restaurants can

win up to \$200 in gift cards by filling out surveys about their experience.

Oshkosh Restaurant Week was created through a collaboration among the local Convention & Visitors Bureau, Propel Oshkosh and Candeo Creative. Sponsors include the Department of Tourism, Steinert Printing, Society Insurance and Reinhart Food Service.

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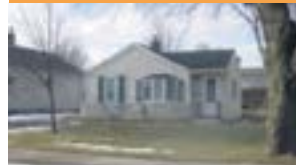
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City bus app will better connect riders, routes

By Tom Ekvall
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Oshkosh bus riders will be able to check on the status of their trip thanks to a new cellphone application.

Transportation Director Jim Collins told members of the Transit Advisory Board on Jan. 16 that the application is now available for iPhone and Android users.

The application has a list of routes with real-time information and tracks where the bus is and expected stop times. The software also provides information on bus fares, special alerts such as a snow delay or traffic difficulty, and a way to share comments to the transit system.

Feedback can deal with missed stops,

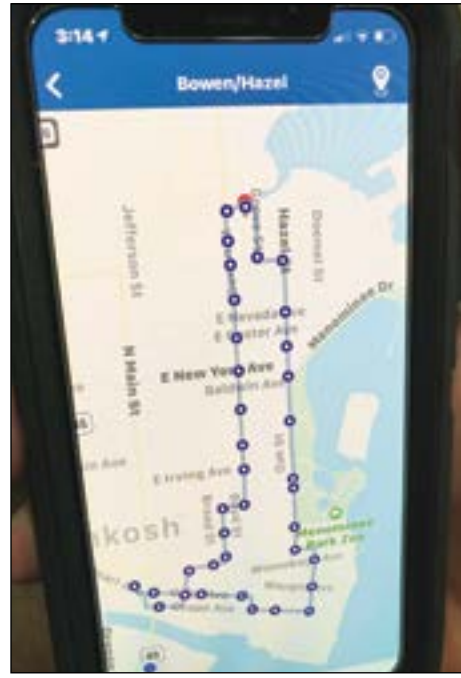
crowding issues, incidents, driver rating, cleanliness, and temperature.

Collins said the live maps on the phone should help customers know whether they missed their connection or not.

"Improving technology was one of the strategic objectives identified in the recently completed transit development plan," said Collins.

The app is available in the Google Play and Apple Stores by searching for "GO Transit Oshkosh."

Collins said the new fares and route changes implemented Jan. 1 appear to be going well as people understand the reasons for the fare increases. He also said the city is buying three new buses at about \$450,000 each with delivery this summer.



Oshkosh Herald

The new GO Transit app accesses and tracks all bus routes along with their expected stop times.

Workforce training keys on retention

Area workforce development partners showcase employee retention with its annual Collaborate to Succeed training event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 21 at Fox Valley Technical College's Riverside Campus.

Presenters from J. J. Keller & Associates, Great Northern Corp., DealerFire and Plexus will share:

- Using the Design Thinking process for decision-making.
- Developing a strategic plan to foster an engaged workforce.
- Training internal candidates in preparation for leadership positions.
- Implementing retention strategies to achieve personal and professional success.

Preregistration is required through EventBrite. The rate of \$75 will be available until Jan. 28. The price then increases to \$85 through Feb. 15.

Water system

FROM PAGE 1

to operate in a manner that follows the strategy," said Chad Shaw, chief of Fox River operations for the Army Corps. "However, there are many times, especially during the spring, where we do not have control of the system because there is much more water coming in than we can discharge through the dam."

Water levels on Lake Winnebago are controlled by two dams, one in Menasha operated by the Army Corps and another in Neenah owned by Neenah Paper. Levels are measured by four gauges at Oshkosh, Menasha, Stockbridge and Fond du Lac, which subsequently affect other Winnebago pool lakes including Butte des Morts, Poygan and Winneconne.

The combination of high summer temperatures and phosphorus levels in areas of the Winnebago system created what is often described as "pea soup." On the north end of Lake Winnebago last year the algae formed a thick blue-tinted mat on the surface that contains toxins potentially harmful to humans and animals.

"The thinking is if we can get a little more plants along the fringes of the lake in the shallow areas and some of the bays we would have more plants to compete with that algae and hopefully reduce some of the frequency or severity of the blooms," said Korin Doering, Winnebago Waterways Program coordinator.

"This year we did see some pretty severe blooms. The overall trend is that we have a system that is dominated by algae because of having too much phosphorous."

She said that besides surface water run-



Photo by Kimberly Kugler

An algae bloom covers the surface of the north end of Lake Winnebago last summer.

off that carries the phosphorous-rich nutrients, the lake already holds plenty of the chemical.

"Phosphorous has built up in the lake sediment, and we have a really large, shallow system so there's a lot of energy from wind and waves that's constantly picking that sediment up and resuspending it into the water," she said.

The Army Corps holds public meetings three times a year to brief the public on water levels and how they may be adjusted to seek improved lake conditions.

Winnebago system representatives through the alliance are asking to shift the summer water level target range by 1.2 inches, from 2.9-3.1 to 2.8-3.0 feet, preferably the lower end of that range, through October for fall boating, and shrinking the winter drawdown target range from 1.2-2.0 to 1.2-1.7 feet.

The Army Corps would continue maintaining the winter drawdown target as long as possible or until ice-out, which since 2006 has ranged from March 17 to April 22 with an average date of April 5.

The strategy also seeks creation of a committee of lake stakeholders to review conditions and provide input to the Army Corps before the spring refill, fall regulation and winter drawdown meetings.

"Whatever stake you have in it, whatever you want of it, tell your neighbors," said Jill VandenOever, a Lake resident on the north shore who spoke at the hearing and has given input to the alliance's waterways program. "Get people involved. The more people we get involved the better this can be. And people will be aware of it."

Doering told those at the Thursday meeting that in 2010 there was a "perfect storm of conditions that led to a really big plant bloom" in Lake Winnebago, making recreation and navigation nearly impossible for large portions of the lake.

"I think people are concerned that when we say we want to restore aquatic plants that, that's what the results will be," she said. "That's not our goal and not our intention and what we are asking for would not result in that kind of plant response unless for some reason again there was

that perfect storm of conditions. But those conditions could happen even if we didn't make any changes to the strategy because that's what happened in 2010; there were no changes to the strategy."

Doering said there have been similar conditions to 2010 since then but did not result in that kind of plant response. She said the alliance understands concerns over navigation in a comparatively shallow water system.

"There are portions of the system that can be tricky to navigate, and so I think when people hear about water levels they worry that it will become even more difficult to use their boat and people who have property in shallow areas worry about being able to access their docks and things like that," she said.

"With the slight alterations that we're suggesting, I don't anticipate having that kind of plant response. We would be happy if we saw a 2 percent improvement in aquatic plants in the system. That would be huge."

An aquatic plant management plan would need to be finalized and approved by the DNR in conjunction with adoption of the drawdown strategy.

Doering presented their initial proposal at the Army Corps' fall meeting, continued to talk to stakeholders — lakeshore property owners, boating clubs, power utilities — and revised the strategy before giving the final version to the Corps. They are hoping for a three-year period with the drawdown strategy to be able to see some results.

"There's going to be opportunities that if they do implement a change and it's not working well we can reevaluate and alter it back," Doering said. "It's not a permanent situation."

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Wrestling coach

FROM PAGE 1

relate to people. Coach Ayala is really good at the ability to adapt and if someone is struggling with something he can work with you whether it's inside or outside of the wrestling room," said Titans senior wrestler Dellas Vandenberg (149 lbs.) "Every day you come in and you never know what to expect from him. He brings great energy even on our bad days."

Most people would compare coach Ayala to the energizer bunny as he is known for his high level of excitement while cheering on his wrestlers.

"He gets so into it like he is out there with the guys. You can't miss his facial expressions," said sister Bianca Ayala. "You can hear him coaching the guys throughout the match. He's not a screamer but he will get your attention by saying things like, 'Come on guys, let's get going' or, 'You got 10 seconds, you better do something about it.'"

Ayala was introduced to wrestling at age 5 by a friend and decided to give it a try with some mixed emotions.

"I wanted to quit after a few meets, but that's not in my blood. My dad wouldn't let me quit anything. I tried one more meet and ended up winning it and after that it was almost like a snowball effect," said Ayala.

Ayala was born in Gering, Neb., later moved to Colorado and then returned to Nebraska to finish middle and high school in Grand Island as he excelled in wrestling, football and his dad's favorite sport, track.

"He did everything that I asked him to do. He was a great kid to coach. He did the extra stuff such as running after practice," said Frohling. "His quickness was his advantage. He had this heel kick that was

devastating to his opponents that they just couldn't stop. He had a great single leg. We worked on his takedowns with him and he became a takedown machine."

Ayala is the Islanders' all-time takedown leader at 481 and on Feb. 8, 2003, he broke John Morrow's all-time school record of 117 wins set in 1993. After completing his sophomore season Ayala met Morrow at a wedding. Frohling introduced the wrestlers by jokingly telling Ayala he stood little chance on the mat against Morrow.

"I told him I was going to get a few of his records," said Ayala. "He said go for it. That's what they're there for — to break."

On the mat Ayala was a stud. He was a four-year letter winner with a 127-25 record. He finished his senior season with an astonishing 36-2 mark, which earned him a No.1 ranking in Class A at 135, topping off his last match with a state championship by defeating Fremont junior Brandon Kruger 7-4 in 2003.

"He didn't stop smiling. He really took in the support from our community," Bianca recalled. "The next day we got pictures taken together for other businesses posters and that's when he realized there was a lot of support for him."

Ayala wasn't a stranger to the state tournament. In 2001 he was runner-up at 119 and placed third the following year at 125 after being upset in the semifinals.

"His sophomore year he went into the finals with a two-time state champ going for three. I don't think he was prepared because of the intensity of it," said Frohling. "His junior year he lost to a kid that he beat before on a funky move that he pulled on him. I thought his senior year his focus was tremendous. Going into his sophomore year the only finishing move Efrain relied on was the heel kick.

"Then he focused on the single leg, duck under and a pass. He could take you down

in so many ways. People were scared of him on his feet."

Ayala will be inducted into the Grand Island Senior High Athletic Hall of Fame next month in the second annual class.

"It was an easy choice. He was a tremendous wrestler," said athletics and activities director Cindy Wells. "He was a leader inside the classroom and as a wrestler. It was his character; he walked the walk."

In Ayala's sixth season as Titans coach he has guided them to a 24-56 overall record and 7-22 in the WIAC conference. In Ayala's first season he was named Rookie Coach of the Year by the National Wrestling Coaches Association as the Titans placed 10th at the 2014 NCAA Division III Championship. Ayala also helped Nazar Kulchysky (142-5, 67 pins) to three straight national titles.

"My senior year in college our goal was to be top 10 in the country," said Kulchysky. "I didn't know anything about team scoring. Right before my match he told me focus on myself. He didn't tell me that if I got a tech fall or pin we would accomplish that. He knew he could trust me and that says a lot to me that he puts his trust in his athletes."

Ayala's wrestlers enjoy his ability to adapt and make them feel comfortable.

"We were on our Las Vegas trip. We needed to get a workout in. Coach Ayala pulls over and we started jogging in the road. I don't think most coaches, especially in the D 3 level, would do that," said senior Mark Choinski (165 lbs).

"We were in New Mexico at the time. It was around sunset and we ended up running in a parade that was going on, which was pretty cool because it wasn't planned at all. The people in the crowd were actually cheering us on and made us feel welcomed."

One of the hardest things in life to deal with is the death of a sibling. In 2012 Aya-

la's youngest sister Gabby took her own life at age 21. Each year Efrain and Bianca remember their sister with a 5K run called Glow 4 Gabby with all proceeds going to scholarships for graduating GISH seniors. This year's run will be June 15.

"Absolutely she was an inspiration to me. She was an amazing young lady. She had a lot to deal with at that time," Ayala said. "I wished I could have reached out more and talked to her more about it and picked her brain. You always do the woulda, shoulda, couldas. My middle sister, she has now designated her time to suicide awareness to make sure this doesn't happen again so that everyone gets the right help."

Back in the Day



Oshkosh history by the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society

Jan. 18, 1929

Watercolors by Oshkosh artist hung at capital: Two watercolors by local artist Nile J. Behncke are on display this month in the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. 178 prints by 86 artists are on display, Behncke is the only one representing Wisconsin. One of the pictures is titled "The Yellow Tree," the other "St. Mary's of the Pines." Mr. Behncke's watercolor paintings have received widespread recognition both nationally and internationally. Nile is the son of Gustav Behncke, who was also a noted artist, oil painter and church decorator in Wisconsin.

Source: *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern*, Jan. 18, 1929

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Herd reshuffles roster for season's second half

By Ti Windisch
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The Wisconsin Herd featured some new faces over the course of its one win in three tries this past week, as Jaylen Morris, Travis Trice and James Young were all either waived or traded away as part of a roster refreshing.

First up was Morris, who was waived by the Milwaukee Bucks to open up a two-way contract spot for use before the deadline to sign those deals ended Tuesday. The Bucks used the second spot on Bonzie Colson, a 6-foot-5 forward from Notre Dame who went undrafted this past summer.

Colson debuted for Wisconsin in a 137-132 loss to the Erie Bayhawks on Wednesday, and played his first Herd home game on Friday in a 124-110 loss to the Lakeland Magic. Despite the early losses, Colson said his initial impressions of the Herd are positive.

"I think we have a really solid team, a lot of unselfish players," Colson said. "We have a system that I think I fit in, that's going to help me develop as a player, which is important. I'm excited just to learn and grow from the guys."

Another new addition was Nick Johnson, who Wisconsin acquired in a trade with the Austin Spurs in exchange for Travis Trice. Johnson debuted on Friday and hit the ground running, as he started at point guard for the Herd due to Trevon Duval missing the game with a groin injury.

Herd head coach Jordan Brady praised his new point guard after the game, saying he liked the pace Johnson brought, his decision-making and his unselfishness.

"You can tell he's got really good game management skills and instincts," Brady



Shevon Thompson scores for the Herd against the Erie Bayhawks in last Wednesday's game at the Menominee Nation Arena.



Michael Qualls, shown Friday against Lakeland at the arena, was at the line 17 times in the Herd's Saturday win against Capital City.

said. "I think he naturally looks to distribute the basketball, which I like."

As part of that trade with Austin, the Herd also got the rights to Olivier Hanlan and the Spurs' second-round 2019 NBA G League draft pick.

Wisconsin made another move during the week, as the Herd waived Young and signed Andre Spight. Spight joined the team ahead of Friday's game against Lakeland but has yet to play

a minute in Wisconsin.

The Herd's sole win this week came Saturday in Washington over the Capital City Go-Go, 109-105. Christian Wood shined in that game, posting 34 points and 23 rebounds before fouling out.

Michael Qualls, who has been coming on stronger lately on offense, followed Wood with 23 points of his own, thanks in large part to his 17 free throw attempts. Qualls also added nine rebounds, five assists, three steals and a block against the Go-Go.

Qualls is averaging 19.6 points, 11.0 rebounds, 4.4 assists, 1.2 steals and 1.0 blocks over his last five games. The versatile forward brings energy to the Herd and tends to swing for the fences, which is something Brady said he's not interested in trying to change.

"I never want to shut Michael Qualls' playmaking down, so you have to try and continue to teach and show him how to pick his spots," Brady said. "He's gotten much better over the course of the season.

... He goes to the rim with aggressiveness. He makes a lot of plays. Sometimes he drives into crowds and it's a turnover or offensive foul, and sometimes he makes a less than ideal decision. But you know what, he makes plays and plays hard, and he's tough."

According to the man himself, Qualls doesn't think about going for high risk/reward plays, it's simply the way he plays the game.

"It's just a part of me," Qualls said. "I don't try to gamble, it's just something that comes naturally, offensively and defensively."

Wisconsin is back in action today as the Windy City Bulls are in Oshkosh at 7 p.m. The Herd is 0-2 against Central Division rival Windy City so far this season.

West wrestlers top North to keep Wallace Cup

By Brad Hartmann
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

Andrew Wallace was a local man who loved the sport of wrestling before giving up his life serving for his country. To pay tribute to Wallace, former Oshkosh North wrestling coach Mike Meunier and former West wrestling coach Jared Esala brainstormed the idea of wrestling for the Andrew Wallace Cup back in 2005.

"It's a different deal in its entirety," said Wildcats senior Kevin Loos. "We are wrestling for the Andrew Wallace Cup, which means a lot to every wrestler on the team. Our coach made us read a little thing about Andrew and during the week we took some time in practice every day to think about what we are grateful for and all the freedoms that we have."

The Wildcats (7-1) were able to retain possession of the cup with a 66-12 victory over the Spartans (2-6) in Thursday's Fox Valley Association cross-town rivalry at the Oshkosh North Fieldhouse as the Spartans honored its seniors.

"I thought we gave our best effort and that's all you can ask for. We may not have won a lot of them, but our kids gave the best that they had," said Spartans coach J.R. Zemke. "We aren't measuring our season by wins or losses. It's about growing from failure. We may not have won tonight, but I think our kids tried and that's all you can ask."

The Wildcats grabbed a quick 18-0 lead at 106 pounds when Junior Brown (15-11) pinned Jacob Medina (4-5) in 1:22 and at

113 pounds Alec Hunter (24-1) pinned Carley Ochoa (8-15) in 47 seconds.

"Last year I couldn't pin her because she is so flexible. This year I was able to and that was pretty cool," said Hunter. "I felt bigger and more confident. I felt I should have worked more on my moves like take-downs than go for the pin right away."

Cade Schmitz (21-4) put the Spartans on the board at 126 pounds by pinning Jack Zangl (8-12) in 1:18, making this the second straight year Schmitz has pinned a Wildcat after trailing.

Logan Grota (19-7) would earn a hard-fought pin in 3:23 at 138 pounds over freshman Drew McKay, extending the Wildcats lead to 30-6. "I really put in a tough off-season with my buddies. It was huge for me because it gave me the upper edge on him," said Grota.

The Spartans would earn back-to-back victories at 145 pounds as Landon Spanbauer (9-14) out-wrestled Carson Hollis (7-10) in a 10-5 decision, and earning his first varsity victory on his home mat senior Travon Lee (12-11) relied on his quickness in a 14-9 decision over Dawson Ramage (8-12) at 152 pounds as the Spartans cut the Wildcats' lead to 30-12.

"The faster I wrestle, the better I wrestle," said Lee. "My game plan coming in was to get takedowns. If I let one up I got to get one back. I try not to dwell on getting scored on and that's what I did by keep getting back up."

The final six matches displayed what the Wildcats wrestling team is capable of achieving as they earned three pins and



Oshkosh North and West wrestlers battled for the Andrew Wallace Cup on Thursday with the Wildcats retaining the prize with a 66-12 victory.

received three forfeits. Blake Framke (17-10) pinned Jeremiah Chmielewski (8-14) in 4:21 at 182 pounds and Kevin Loos (17-8) pinned AJ Besaw (12-10) in 3:09 at 195 pounds.

"It's really special being able to go out there to wrestle confident, wrestle strong, and stick to my game plan for the six points," said Loos. "I got the takedown right away, but it wasn't my cleanest. My game plan was being quicker on my feet and try to get to the legs because he was slower but bigger and stronger than me."

Justin Oppermann (10-11) pinned Matthew Mathusek (1-4) in 1:32 at 220 pounds. The Wildcats have now won 12 of

the last 19 meetings with North and will host Hortonville (3-4) Thursday evening and the Spartans will travel to Neenah (5-3) in the season finale.

"The guys came out ready to roll. This is probably the most confident I have seen them all year," said Wildcats coach Duane Hartkopf. "They worked hard and scored a lot of points. They are doing what we are preaching up in the room, which is fun."

"They knew coming in the year we would have a tough team. I told my staff I don't know what our identity is yet. I think that they have to realize is that they are a good team and that they can compete with anyone."

Prep sports roundup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lourdes picks up third in row over Sturgeon Bay

The Lourdes girls basketball team picked up its third straight win Saturday, topping Sturgeon Bay 60-56.

Alexis Rolph scored a team-high 20 points – 12 of them from the free throw line as she went 12 of 15 – while Raechel Russo and Hope Burns each chipped in 12 points.

Lourdes, which led 31-20 at the half, went 17 of 28 at the free throw line.

On Thursday, the Knights (8-7, 5-2 Trailways-East) beat Hustisford 51-41 in a Trailways-East game played at home.

Paige Droessler led the Knights in that game with 13 points while Rolph and Russo added 12 and 10 points. Marley Wesenberg scored all nine of her points on 3-pointers.

Lightning stops West

The Oshkosh West girls basketball team got behind early and could never recover as it lost to Appleton North 78-42 in a Fox Valley Association contest Friday.

Callista Rochon-Baker led the Wildcats (4-11, 2-9 FVA) with 12 points while Reese Lang added eight. Kiersten McNulty added seven points for West.

Spartans improve to 10-5 with big win over Neenah

The Oshkosh North girls basketball team used a big second half as it picked up a 53-36 Fox Valley Association win over Neenah on Friday night.

North (10-5, 6-5 FVA) outscored the Rockets 30-14 in the second half and got 24 points and four steals from Ashley Wissink. Wissink was 7-of-10 at the free throw line and made 5-of-8 3-point shots.

Nydia Griffin and Emma Leib added seven points for North.

WRESTLING

Wildcats take third at Sheboygan North

The Oshkosh West wrestling team finished third out of 21 teams Saturday in the Sheboygan North Herb Tyler Invitational.

The Wildcats finished with 146.5 points while Stevens Point (172) won and Random Lake (164) was second.

Capturing first-place finishes and going undefeated for West included Alec Hunter (106 pounds), Logan Grotta (132) and Edgar Heredia (170).

Connor Collins (152) was second going 3-1 and Blake Framke (182) and Kevin Loos (195) were sixth. Adding top 10



Hope Burns of Lourdes puts in a shot against Hustisford in the Knights 51-41 conference win Thursday in Oshkosh.

Photo by Andy Ratchman

finishes were Justin Opperman (220) and Avery Martell (285), who finished seventh going 3-2 and 2-2 on the day.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Spartans hold off Neenah

The Oshkosh North boys basketball team used a late 8-0 run to help pick up a 63-60 Fox Valley Association game played on Friday night.

Trailing 48-42, the Spartans (8-7, 5-6 FVA) used a 8-0 run – two baskets from Josh Dilling, who scored a team-high 24 – to help seal the win. Neenah's game-tying 3-pointer missed as time expired.

Matt Hickey added 11 points while Abe Schiek and Matthew Berger each had nine.

Wildcats fall to Appleton North, Brookfield Central

The Oshkosh West boys basketball team was crushed 94-49 against fourth-ranked Brookfield Central in a nonconference game played on the road Saturday.

No stats were available.

Then on Friday night, the Wildcats had

a 12 point halftime lead but was outscored 45-26 in the second half in a 66-59 loss to Appleton North on Friday night.

Karter Thomas had another big night for West (7-8, 5-6 FVA), scoring 27 points. Tony Lancaste added 12 while Caleb Fuller had nine.

Valley Christian can't get past Dodgeand

The Valley Christian boys basketball team had a sluggish first half as Dodgeand picked up a 75-52 Trailways-East win on Friday night.

The Warriors only scored 17 points in the first half.

Andrew McFarlane and Isaiah Wade led the way with 12 points a piece while Nickolai Thur added 11 points. Wade had a big night on the glass, recording 14 rebounds.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Warbirds continue to roll with two wins

The Fond du Lac/Beaver Dam/Oshkosh Warbirds improved to 14-2 on the season after topping the Lakeshore Lightning 7-2 in a game played Saturday.

The Warbirds, ranked No. 4 in the state with a 6-0 conference mark, got two goals from Morgan Brown and Alyssa Heim, while Dayna Jones, Hattie Versteegen and Drew Deanovich added goals.

Abby Okon recorded 22 saves.

On Friday night, the Warbirds beat Central Wisconsin Storm 5-2 at home.

Deanovich scored two goals while Versteegen added an assist.

Compiled by Alex Wolf, Herald contributor



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Wittchow reaches 1,000 points as Titans streak hits 15

By Alex Wolf
HERALD CONTRIBUTOR

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh men's basketball team, ranked fifth in Division III, picked up its program-record 15th straight win with a 72-66 win over UW-La Crosse in a crucial Wisconsin In-

tercollegiate Athletic Conference game played at home.

With the win, the Titans (16-1, 6-0 WIAC) now have sole possession of first place in the conference over UW-La Crosse, who came into the game with a 5-0 mark in the WIAC.

The Titans led by double digits late in the game but the Eagles were able to cut it to two points twice in the final minute, but could never tie it up.

Senior Brett Wittchow hit 1,000 career points in the win as he finished with 17 points and eight rebounds. Wittchow was

6 of 6 from the free throw line and got his 1,000 point from the stripe.

Jack Flynn had a team-high 22 points and added six rebounds while Ben Boots had 11 points and five assists. The Titans only shot 39 percent from the field but was 25-of-28 from the free throw line.

Titans women rebound with victory over UW-La Crosse

After falling to UW-Whitewater in a tight game Wednesday, the UW-Oshkosh women's basketball team responded with a 60-48 win over UW-La Crosse on Saturday on the road.

The Titans (15-2, 5-1 WIAC), ranked

12th in Division III, now sit on top of the WIAC again after being tied with La Crosse with just one loss.

The Titans used a big fourth quarter to help pick up the win, outscoring the Eagles 23-10 after going into the quarter

down one.

The Titans only shot 32 percent in the win, but it was better than the Eagles' 28.8 percent. The Titans outrebounded the Eagles 51-36 and got a career-high 15 points from Chloe Pustina, who added

five rebounds. Melanie Schneider added 10 points and five rebounds while Karsyn Rueth had six points, nine rebounds and three assists.

Nikki Arneson and Isabella Samuels chipped in seven points for the Titans.

UW-Oshkosh ranked No. 1 in preseason track rankings

From UW-Oshkosh

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named UW-Oshkosh its preseason choice to capture the 2019 NCAA Division III men's indoor track and field title.

UW-Oshkosh, which shared the Division III title in 2009 and finished second at the national meet in 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2013, earned its top listing through a preseason grading system conducted by the USTFCCCA. The Titans' last appearance as the national No. 1 indoor team was week 3 of the 2013 season.

The USTFCCCA's National Rating Index primarily bases its rankings off previous seasons' results from the top returning athletes and how each athlete ranks compared with other returning individuals nationally. The first regular season ranking was released Tuesday.

UW-Oshkosh began its 2019 indoor season with a pair of meets in December. The Titans won the six-team UW-Oshkosh Early Bird Invitational Dec. 1 and

competed at the non-scoring Olivet Nazarene University (Ill.) Holiday Invitational Dec. 7.

UW-Oshkosh will compete in a series of meets before participating at the WIAC Championship on Feb. 22-23 in Whitewater and the NCAA Division III Championship on March 8-9 in Boston.

The Titans return 21 letter winners from last year's team that is attempting to improve upon their sixth-place showing at the WIAC Championship. UW-Oshkosh went on to finish 28th at the Division III Championship with nine points, marking the program's 20th straight national indoor meet with at least five points scored.

UW-Oshkosh totaled 163.22 points to lead the USTFCCCA's 2019 National Preseason Rating Index. The Titans were followed by second-ranked North Central College (Ill.) with 159.48 points, third-ranked and defending national champion University of Mount Union (Ohio) with 115.63, fourth-ranked Massachusetts Institute of Technology with 110.51 and fifth-ranked Christopher Newport University (Va.) with 90.03.

West High names 6 to Athletic Wall

The Oshkosh West High School Athletic Department has announced six new inductees into the school's Wall of Fame, who will be recognized Friday during halftime of the varsity boys' basketball game at the school.

This year's Athletic Wall of Fame inductees are Nicole (Almberg) Berlowski, Class of 2003; Joshua Berndt, 1998; Dave Christman; Erin (Leinweber) Coppernoll, 1993; Morgan Meier, 2003; and Jesse Wilcox, 2005.

The Wall of Fame honors outstanding achievement and recognizes those who have been committed to sports and who have enriched the history of West athletics, including student-athletes, coaches, educators and supporters.

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|  <p>2017 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL AWD Burgandy Velvet, Cappuccino Leather, 2.7L Twin Turbo, Reserve Package, Twin Panel Moon Roof, 30-Way Perfect Position Seating, Technology Pkg., wAdaptive Cruise, Lane Departure, Navigation. 18P7A</p> |  <p>2016 LINCOLN MKZ HYBRID Black Velvet, Ebony Leather, 2.0L Atkinson I-4, Reserve Pkg., Nav., Moon, 19" Polished Wheels, 36-40 MPG, Only 20,999 Miles. 18P21A</p> |  <p>2016 LINCOLN MKZ AWD Luxe Met., Cappuccino Leather, 3.7L V-6, Reserve Pkg., Nav., Panoramic Moon, Technology Pkg., 19" Polished Wheels, Only 19,327 One Owner Miles. 18P9A</p> |
|  <p>2016 LINCOLN MKZ AWD Black Velvet, Ebony Leather, 3.7L V-6, THX Premium Audio, 19" Polished Wheels, Navigation, Blind Spot, Heated/Cooled Front Seats, Heated Rear Seats, Local Lease Turn-In, Service History, Only 23,380 Miles. 18P43A</p> |  <p>2015 LINCOLN MKZ HYBRID Ruby Red, Cappuccino Leather, 2.0L Atkinson I-4, Reserve Pkg., Navigation, Moon, 19" Polished wheels. Very clean One Owner, 36-40 MPG. Only 28,174 miles. 18P40A</p> |  <p>2015 LINCOLN MKC FWD White Platinum, White Sand Leather, 2.0L Turbo, Select Pkg. and Select Plus Pkg. w/Navigation, Blind Spot Detection, Lincoln Drive Control, Local Trade, We Have Complete, Service History: 20 City/29 Hwy MPG. 17M0021A</p> |
|  <p>2015 LINCOLN MKX FWD Platinum Dune, Charcoal Leather, 3.7L V-6, Elite Package w/Navigation, THX Audio, Panoramic Moon Roof, Heated/Cooled Front Seats, 20" Chrome Clad, Trailer Tow, Local One Owner. Only \$27,995 17P60A</p> |  <p>2015 LINCOLN MKX AWD Ingot Silver, Charcoal Leather, 3.7L V-6, Elite Pkg., Navigation, Panoramic Moon, 20" Chrome Wheels, Heated/Cooled Seats, Only 20,787 Miles. 18P22A</p> |  <p>2015 LINCOLN MKC AWD Smoke Quartz, White Sand Leather, 1.3L Turbo, Select Pkg w/ Power Folding Mirrors, Heated Front Seats, Dual 10 way Power Front Seats, Full Service History. 17M0C10A</p> |
|  <p>2013 LINCOLN MKZ AWD Ruby Red, Ebony Leather, 2.0L Turbo I-4, Select Package, 19" Polished Wheels, Premium Audio, Heated Seats, Very Clean with Only 33,044 Miles, Remaining Certified Warranty. 18P49A</p> |  <p>2015 LINCOLN MKX AWD White Platinum, Canyon Leather, 3.7L V-6, Elite Pkg., Panoramic Moon, Nav, Adaptive Cruise, Trailer Tow, 20" Chrome Wheels, Local One Owner. 17P56B</p> | |

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Obituaries

Rosayn Knudsen

Rosayn Knudsen died peacefully with her family present at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh on January 14th, 2019. She was born on September 22nd, 1941 in Oshkosh to the late Herb and Jo Ilk. She was a member of Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish in Oshkosh. She married Gordon Knudsen on August 11, 1967 in Oshkosh where they lived until 1975, moved to Winneconne until 1997, and then moved back to Oshkosh. She enjoyed seeing her twin grandchildren who were her pride and joy. She loved watching their games and always sent cards; never missing a birthday or holiday. She enjoyed gambling trips to Vegas and Tunica and loved making soup and cookies. She worked at Hoffmaster, Aurora Can-



dler's, Blended Waxes, and them part time at Oaks Candy retiring in 2004.

Rosayn is survived by her husband of 51 years, Gordon Knudsen; Son, Reno (Laura) Knudsen, and their children, Zoey and Wyatt; sisters, Pat (Leonard) Madel, Priscilla Gluth; brother, Herb (Marcia) Ilk; and many special nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Rosayn was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, Steve Gluth and niece, Jenny Madel. Per Rosayn's wishes, no funeral services will be held. The family wishes to say a special thank you to Terri, the nurse in ICU at Aurora and Brittney from hospice for their special care.

A sister is a person that is always there for you. Whether it's good or bad times, she's there. She loves you for what you are, not for what you could or should be, she's there. Rosayn will be greatly missed.

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Neal R. Stein

Neal Richard Stein, age 60, of Oshkosh, born July 9, 1958, in Escanaba MI to Isadore and Marvel Stein.

Neal moved to Oshkosh in January 1979 to work for Wisconsin Bell. Neal also managed several Speedway stations and owned two taverns - Neal's Sixth Street Flyer and Neal's on Oregon. His proudest achievement was graduating with honors from UWO with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. Teaching was his dream.

Neal married Linda Kalous on Nov. 27, 1992, five years to the day of meeting.

He enjoyed riding his Harley, collecting cars and trucks and spending time with his wife and numerous pets.

He is survived by his wife, Linda of 26 years, 1 month and 23 days. His mother and father-in-law Marjorie and Edwin Kalous. His sisters-in-law, Sue (Dave) Tews, and Mary (Tim) Nelson. Special niece Holli (Jamie) Krueger, special nephew Jezra Hazelwood. His 3 precious grandnieces Allie, Charlotte and Lucy. Nieces Samantha Nelson and Kelli (Mike) Mincheski and their family. Nephews Charlie Nelson and Adam (Becky) Tews

and their family. Neal is further survived by many other relatives and friends.

Neal was preceded in death by his parents and a very special Aunt Minnie Stein.

The family wishes to thank Ascension Hospice for their exceptional care and compassion. Neal's family would also like to give a special thank you to the staff at Lakepoint Villa Assisted living for their amazing care and John Lemberger for his numerous visits that brought Neal happiness and comfort.

"Neal, I will love you forever - to Pluto and beyond, and I know you love me more. You are the best, of the best, of the best, sir! You are my angel." Love always, Linda

Funeral service for Neal will be held on Thursday January 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM in Fiss & Bills-Poklasny Funeral Home at 865 S. Westhaven Dr. in Oshkosh. A time of visitation will be held from 4:00 PM until the time of service. Burial will take place at Sacred Heart cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society.

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Library reveals new feature

Explorers Grove, an interactive learning space for children and families, is being introduced from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday in the Children's Department at the Oshkosh Public Library.

"It's been four years in the making," said Marie Boleman, head of Children's and Family Outreach Services. "After the intricate planning, design and construction phases, we're thrilled to be celebrating a space dedicated to promoting curiosity, learning, self-expression and discovery."

A circle of treelike structures stands in front of an animal-themed mural. An open area under the canopy allows children to read, explore, imagine and play. The trees span from floor to ceiling and host a rabbit, squirrel and bird.

Other new additions include a reading bench and discovery station that fosters free play and interactive learning experiences. The setting welcomes caregivers and parents to be fully present in the moment with their children.

Explorers Grove and an additional LEGO wall in the library's Technology Lab were made possible through a memorial donation honoring longtime librarian Nancy Jackisch, who worked for the library for 43 years, serving as a children's librarian during much of that time.

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Community events

Wednesday, Jan. 23

Wisconsin Herd vs. Windy City Bulls, 7 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena
 Kyle Cherek Rock and Roll Dinner: David Bowie, 6 p.m., The Howard, 405 Washington Ave.

Thursday, Jan. 24

Oshkosh Restaurant Week, 25 locations through Jan. 30

Friday, Jan. 25

Marine Corps League Bingo, 5:30 p.m., Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road
 Pure Fighting Championships 12, 7 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena
 Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Saturday, Jan. 26

Indoor Rummage Sale and Craft Fair, 9 a.m., Sunnyview Expo Center
 Ice Hawks Fight Cancer, 2:30 p.m., Oshkosh Community YMCA, 3303 W. 20th Ave.
 Strike Out Hunger 9 Pin Tap Tournament, 1:30 p.m., Revs Bowl Bar & Grill, 275 N. Washburn St.
 Oshkosh Public Library Children's Area Community Open House, 10 a.m., Oshkosh Public Library
 An Evening with Dawes, 8 p.m., The Howard, 405 Washington Ave.
 Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Back-

lot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Thursday, Jan. 31

Oshkosh Business Expo, noon, Oshkosh Convention Center
 Business After Hours: A Taste Oshkosh, 5 p.m., Oshkosh Convention Center

Friday, Feb. 1

Otter Street Winter Fisheree, Millers Bay and Lake Winnebago
 Marine Corps League Bingo, 5:30 p.m., Marine Corps League, 4715 Sherman Road
 Brandan's Bash, 6 p.m., Millers Bay in Menominee Park
 Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Otter Street Winter Fisheree, Menominee Park and Lake Winnebago
 Winter Farmers Market, 8 a.m., Menominee Nation Arena
 Wedding Cake Tasting, 9 a.m., Tamar's Cake Guru, 2271 Westowne Ave.
 Fall in Love with Handmade Urban Craft Fair, 10 a.m., Becket's Atrium, 2 Jackson St.
 Fox Cities Roller Derby, 6 p.m., Menominee Nation Arena
 Oshkosh Gallery Walk, 6 p.m., downtown
 Comedy Improv Show, 9 p.m., Backlot Comedy House, 424 N. Main St.

Fit Oshkosh offers Best Reads

A young boy born into the South African apartheid system becomes one of the biggest media stars in America. A white upper-middle-class woman undertakes a transformative journey to racial awareness. Without her knowledge or consent, an African American patient's cells are taken from her and used as the basis of some of modern medicine's greatest innovations.



Photo from Fit Oshkosh

Fit Oshkosh is promoting its list of Best Reads for 2019.

A slave born in the early 1800s in South Carolina writes poetry — and carves it into the stoneware he creates as he labors in a local pottery works. Three brilliant black women are behind one of the greatest achievements in U.S. space exploration.

These stories and others appear on the list of Fit Oshkosh Best Reads of 2019. The list, compiled by Fit Oshkosh Color Brave librarians Mandi Isaacson and Paula Steger, includes novels, nonfiction, memoirs, poetry, biographies and movies. All tell powerful stories that inspire readers and viewers to action in combating racism and promoting social justice.

They will be taking some of these titles on the road again this year, visiting elementary school classrooms and the YMCA to share stories. The goal is to bring more of these titles to classrooms and ultimately

have parents bring their children to check out the free lending library at the Fit Oshkosh office. The organization is seeking donations of books and movies to add.

"Data shows us that people of color are underrepresented in children's literature. Introducing books that feature people of color is a great way to help youth see characters of different ethnic backgrounds," said Tracey Robertson, Fit's founder.

The book titles initially mentioned are, respectively: "Born a Crime" by Trevor Noah, "Waking Up White" by Debbie Irving, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot, "Dave The Potter" by Laban Hill and the movie "Hidden Figures." The complete list can be found at www.fitoshkoshinc.org.

Business notes

Sign and graphics company **Image 360** has purchased Crown Trophy at 1000 W. 9th Ave. and is moving the operations to its 347 N. Sawyer Ave. facility. Crown Trophy owners Al and Dawn Stang sold the business as they prepare for retirement. Dawn will remain with Image 360 during

the transition. Owner Tim White said Cindy Meyer has been hired to manage the Crown Trophy division. Image 360 offers indoor and outdoor signs, exhibits and displays, interior decor, custom framing and vehicle wraps, and is expanding its facilities with a vehicle wrap installation bay.

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pre-registration is available
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